

EXPERIENCE THE CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED

54+

OPPORTUNITIES

April 2014 - April 2015

WELCOME TO SEATTLE'S WATERSHEDS

The Cedar River Watershed Education Center is only 35 miles east of Seattle, yet feels like a world away. The Center is tucked into the Cascade foothills, facing Rattlesnake Lake and Ledge. Owned and operated by Seattle Public Utilities, it is the gateway to the Cedar River Municipal Watershed.

Since 1901, the Cedar River Watershed has been Seattle's primary source of water. In 1964, the South Fork of the Tolt River was tapped to meet the needs of a growing population. Today, 1.3 million people get their water from these combined sources.

Even though unsupervised public access is strictly prohibited, the City offers affordable adventures for you to experience your water at its source. We hope this catalog inspires you to visit!



❶ Neighbors enjoying a winter sleigh ride at Cedar Falls, 1914. ❷ With its rustic charm and stunning views of Rattlesnake Ledge, the Education Center is a popular rental facility for weddings. ❸ The South Fork Tolt Reservoir. ❹ In the Water is Magic Exhibits you can discover how many gallons of water are in your body. ❺ The Railroad History Treasure Tour stops at an original Milwaukee Road steel truss bridge. ❻ The selective fish passage goes into action every fall at Landsburg Diversion Dam.



WATERSHED DEFINED

wa·ter·shed noun

The area of land that includes a particular body of water and all the rivers, streams, and rain that flow into that particular body of water.



CONTACT US >

19901 Cedar Falls Rd SE, North Bend, WA 98045

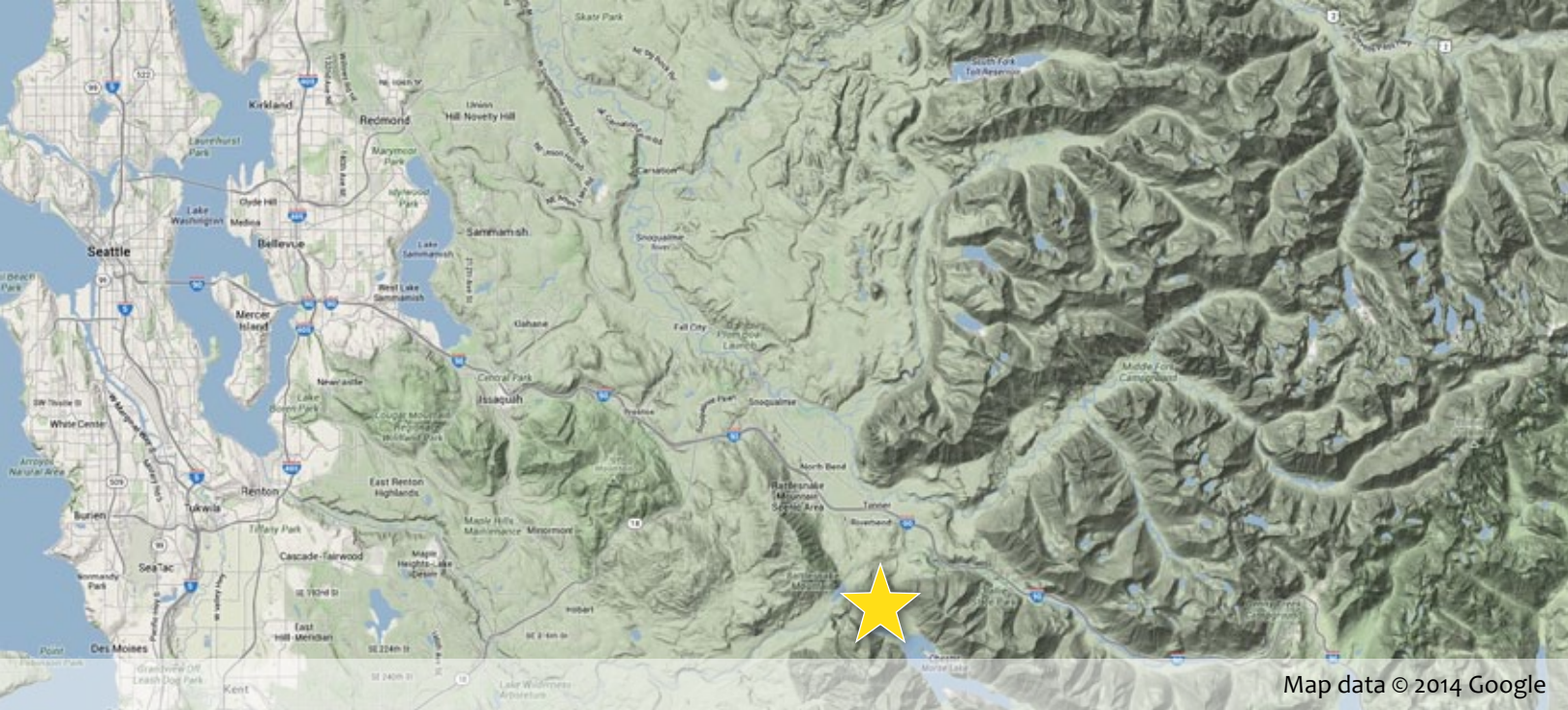
PHONE: 206.733.9421 | 425.831.6780

www.seattle.gov/util/crwe

EMAIL: CRWprograms@seattle.gov



The Cedar River Watershed Education Center connects people to the source of Seattle's drinking water and its unique cultural and natural history, inspiring confidence, stewardship, and sustainability.



Map data © 2014 Google



Cedar River Watershed Education Center

VISIT US

CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED EDUCATION CENTER

April – October November – March
Tuesday – Sunday Tuesday – Sunday
10AM to 5PM 10AM to 4PM

Closed Mondays & City Holidays

NOTE: The Rain Drums stop playing when the temperature drops below 34 degrees Fahrenheit to protect the system from freezing.

HERITAGE LIBRARY

The library is staffed by volunteers, so please call ahead if you plan to visit.

RATTLESNAKE LAKE

The Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area is open daily, dawn to dusk. Camping and open campfires are strictly prohibited.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

We are located about 35 miles east of downtown Seattle near North Bend.

- From Seattle take I-90 east to exit 32 (436th Ave SE/Cedar Falls Road SE).
- Go south (right) on Cedar Falls Road SE for about 4 miles.
- We are located near the end of the road, past Rattlesnake Lake and Iron Horse State Park.

NEWSLETTER



Read stories you won't find anywhere else. Published six times each year.

Sign-up here:

www.seattle.gov/util/CedarRiverWatershedNews

REGISTRATION

PLAN AHEAD

Registration begins on April 1. Space is limited, so plan ahead and make your reservations early.

COST

Prices vary depending upon the program. Payment is due in full prior to the program and can be paid online, in person or by mail. Cash, check, and credit cards are accepted.

YOUNG ADULTS

TAP WATER TOURS: Youth ages 10 and up are welcome to attend with a participating adult.

OTHER ADULT PROGRAMS: Responsible youth, ages 15 and up with an interest in nature and history, are welcome to attend adult programs. Youth must be accompanied by a participating adult.

CANCELLATIONS

To receive a refund or credit, cancellations must be made at least two weeks prior to the program.

PREPARATION

Many programs happen in remote areas of the watershed, far from indoor facilities. You may encounter cold temperatures, rain, mud, insects, heat,

and other inclement conditions. Please come equipped with food (snack/lunch), water, appropriate footwear (hiking/waterproof), raingear, and any other provisions (such as hiking poles) required for you to stay warm, dry, and comfortable for the duration of the program. Attendees need to be in reasonably good physical condition and prepared for a day outside that includes short hikes of moderate intensity.

QUESTIONS?

Education Center staff are always happy to help answer your questions.

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🏠 19901 Cedar Falls Rd SE, North Bend, WA 98045

☎️ PHONE: 206.733.9421 | 425.831.6780

🌐 www.seattle.gov/util/crvec

✉️ EMAIL: CRWprograms@seattle.gov | 5



Cedar River Municipal Watershed

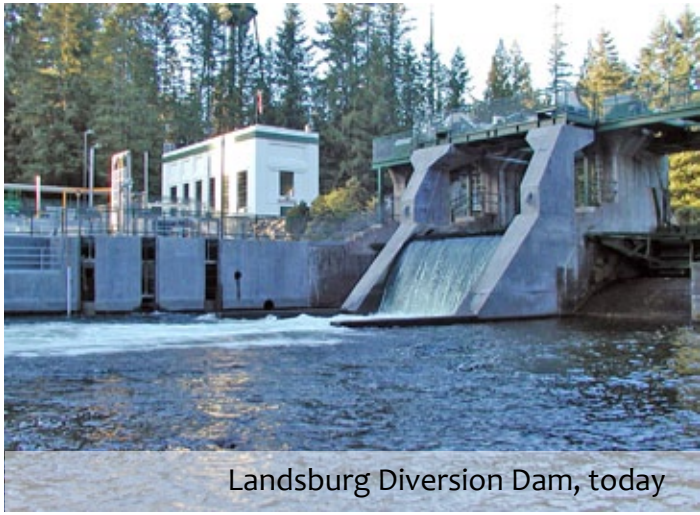
THE WATERSHED STORY



Landsburg Diversion Dam, 1901

THEN

Rapid population growth in the late 1800s and the “Great Seattle Fire” on June 6, 1889 prompted a vote to establish a municipal water system, which voters approved by a resounding 1,875 to 51 margin. Water first flowed from the Cedar River gravity-fed system into Seattle on January 10, 1901. A pipeline channeled water to the Volunteer Park and Lincoln reservoirs on Capitol Hill.



Landsburg Diversion Dam, today

NOW

In 1964, the South Fork of the Tolt River began supplying north Seattle and the Eastside. Combined, the Watersheds total more than 100,000 acres of land that is actively protected to maintain some of the best quality drinking water in the country. Today, the Seattle water system supplies about 120 million gallons of water per day to about 1.3 million people in the greater Seattle area.





FAST FACTS

- Owing to highly protected watershed sources, Seattle is only 1 of 6 large cities in the USA granted EPA permission to deliver minimally treated, unfiltered water to customers.
- The Cedar Falls Power Plant is the oldest public hydroelectric facility in the USA. Built to supply 100% of Seattle’s needs, today it only fulfills 1% of the City’s power need.
- At least 83 species of fish and wildlife live in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. Some are threatened or endangered, including Bull Trout and Marbled Murrelet.
- Most of the water in Lake Washington comes from the Cedar River. The river enters the lake in Renton, and winds its way through the Ship Canal and Ballard Locks.
- Commercial logging operations ended in the Municipal Watersheds in 1994. Today the forest is being restored for healthy drinking water and habitat.
- A network of more than 2,000 miles of pipe carry water into Seattle and to other cities, such as Bellevue, that buy water wholesale for their customers.

TOP 4 PLACES TO SEE

1. **Landsburg Diversion Dam** is the place where drinking water is diverted and some salmon enter the upper river.
2. **Chester Morse Lake**, once called Cedar Lake, has been attracting people for more than 9,000 years.
3. **Masonry Dam** is part of the hydroelectric system and also regulates reservoir levels for the drinking water supply.
4. **Cedar Falls Waterfall** is one of the most beautiful and memorable spots in the Watershed.

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The Education Center with Rattlesnake Lake and Ledge in the distance.

RATTLESNAKE LAKE RECREATION AREA

THE CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED EDUCATION CENTER



View from Rattlesnake Ledge

Many people don't realize it, but Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area - including the Lake and Ledge - is owned and managed by Seattle Public Utilities. Each year thousands of people enjoy hiking, fishing, swimming, and picnicking in this park setting.

A 2-mile trail leads to a stunning view at the top of Rattlesnake Ledge, a distinct rock formation chiseled by the hands of time. Below, the sparkling turquoise waters of Rattlesnake Lake hide the secrets of Moncton, a town accidentally flooded in 1915.

A scenic paved trail connects Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area with the Education Center. Along the way, interpretive signs enlighten visitors.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Take a stroll along the shore, discover how Rattlesnake Lake was created by accident.**
- *Spot osprey catching trout.**
- *Cruise the lake in a battery-powered boat or canoe.**
- *Be enchanted by the stunning view atop the Ledge.**
- *Volunteer at a restoration event.**

Perched above the banks of Rattlesnake Lake is the Cedar River Watershed Education Center. Built in 2001, its architecture reflects the history of the area and is a model of sustainability - from the sod roofs to the recycled rubber flooring.

Sweeping views of Rattlesnake Ledge can be seen from the observation decks, while native plants flourish in the famous Rain Drum Garden.

At the front desk, helpful staff are available to answer questions. The gift shop offers something for every budget. Venture into the free, award-winning Water is Magic Exhibits. Delve deeper into Watershed history in the Heritage Library.


HIGHLIGHTS


- *Be mesmerized by the rhythms of the Rain Drum Garden.**
- * Follow a drop through the water cycle in the Water is Magic Exhibits.**
- * Get local trail information at the Front Desk.**
- * Volunteer at an event.**
- * Rent one of the buildings for your next retreat.**




Welcome Room and Front Desk

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Cedar River Watershed

South Fork Tolt Watershed

SEATTLE'S WATERSHEDS

While the Watersheds are strictly off-limits to unsupervised public access, there are plenty of opportunities for people of all ages to experience the primary water source for the region. The Cedar River Watershed Education Center is home base for understanding this legendary landscape.

The **Cedar River Municipal Watershed** is more than 90,000 acres. The City of Seattle owns 100% of the land within its boundaries.

Due to this high level of protection, drinking water from the Cedar River is not filtered.

The Cedar River annually provides up to 127 million gallons of drinking water per day.

The Center is open year-round. Guided tours into the Watershed are available Spring - Fall.

The **South Fork Tolt Watershed** is 12,500 acres. The City of Seattle owns 70% of the land, or approximately 8,400 acres. The eastern 30% is owned and managed by the USDA Forest Service.

The South Fork Tolt Watershed can provide up to 120 million gallons of drinking water per day through the filtration plant.

Due to the extremely remote location, tours of the South Fork Tolt Watershed are not available at this time.

Public Roads

Watershed Boundary

Point of Interest

Peaks

Old Growth Forests

Water Body

SCALE IN MILES

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10 |

| 11



Masonry Dam & Pool

TAP WATER TOURS



Cedar Falls Waterfall

The 2.5-hour tour begins with an introduction in the Center, followed by a guided bus journey behind the closed gates of the Watershed. Highlights include driving through the historic townsite of Cedar Falls, walking across Masonry Dam, seeing Chester Morse Lake, and experiencing Cedar Falls Waterfall. Along the way, your guide will share stories and pictures that help shed light on the landscape.

If you’ve never been on a tour into the Watershed, this is the best way to get your feet wet. Walking distances of 1/4 mile across uneven surfaces is necessary on this tour.

SIGNATURE TAP WATER TOUR

ADULTS \$10
SENIORS (55+) \$5
YOUTH (ages 10 to 18) \$5



July 18	(Friday)	10:15 - 12:45
July 19	(Saturday)	10:15 - 12:45
July 20	(Sunday)	10:15 - 12:45
July 25	(Friday)	10:15 - 12:45
July 26	(Saturday)	10:15 - 12:45
July 27	(Sunday)	10:15 - 12:45
August 15	(Friday)	10:15 - 12:45
August 16	(Saturday)	10:15 - 12:45
August 17	(Sunday)	10:15 - 12:45
August 22	(Friday)	10:15 - 12:45
August 23	(Saturday)	10:15 - 12:45
August 24	(Sunday)	10:15 - 12:45
September 5	(Friday)	10:15 - 12:45
September 6	(Saturday)	10:15 - 12:45
September 7	(Sunday)	10:15 - 12:45

FAMILY TAP WATER TOUR

ALL AGES \$5 per seat
(kids on laps are free)



This is the 1-hour family-style version of our Signature Tap Water Tour. Popular with multi-generational families, it’s bound to delight young, curious minds with short attention spans and high energy levels. The tour begins with a quick introduction at the Center, followed by a guided tour bus journey through the historic Cedar Falls Townsite and a stop at Cedar Falls Waterfall or Masonry Dam.

DATE	DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON
July 11	(Friday)	10:15 - 11:15	1:15 - 2:15
July 12	(Saturday)	10:15 - 11:15	1:15 - 2:15
July 13	(Sunday)	10:15 - 11:15	1:15 - 2:15
August 2	(Saturday)	10:15 - 11:15	1:15 - 2:15
August 3	(Sunday)	10:15 - 11:15	1:15 - 2:15
August 8	(Friday)	10:15 - 11:15	1:15 - 2:15
August 9	(Saturday)	10:15 - 11:15	1:15 - 2:15
August 10	(Sunday)	10:15 - 11:15	1:15 - 2:15

OTHER OPTIONS

GROUP TAP WATER TOUR

Get a unique taste of the Cedar River Municipal Watershed with this tailor made tour for organized groups of 9 or more. Call or email the Center for details and dates.

WATER IS MAGIC EXHIBIT VISIT

For groups with very limited mobility, a visit to the Education Center is the perfect fit. Call or email the Center for details and dates.

CONTACT US >

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www.seattle.gov/util/crwec
EMAIL: CRWprograms@seattle.gov

SYMBOLS >

Bus Tour Van Tour Watershed-based Center-based Hiking Off Trail Free Special Event Adults Families



CEAR RIVER LIGHT AND WATER SYSTEM

Cedar Falls Townsite, 1911



Among Ancients: Old Growth Forests program at Findley Lake

CULTURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

WATER & POWER: CEDAR FALLS TOWNSITE TOUR

ADULTS \$10



Immerse yourself in the proud heritage of bringing water and light to the people of Seattle. Founded in 1901, the City-owned town was a vibrant community for decades. See some of the original homes and streetlights that still remain. A Seattle Public Utilities naturalist will guide you on this walking tour where you will hear the stories of those who lived, worked, and grew up in Cedar Falls.

June 15 (Sunday) 1 - 3

June 22 (Sunday) 1 - 3

RAILROAD HISTORY TREASURE TOUR

ADULTS \$15



Take a trip back in time with Clay Antieau, Seattle Public Utilities scientist and Watershed rail historian. This tour seeks out some of the remaining structures, grades, and legacies created when railroads were king. The highlights of this field tour include a wooden trestle and the former Cedar Falls, WA switchyard. Participants must be able to handle about 1 mile of hiking over uneven terrain.

June 21 (Saturday) 9 - 1

CLAY & COAL: TAYLOR TOWNSITE TOUR

ADULTS \$10



Delve into the rich history of Taylor, a town that now lies etched below the forests of the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. Taylor was world-famous for its clay products. A Seattle Public Utilities naturalist will guide you on this walking tour, revealing some of the stories that made Taylor so special. Walking on uneven terrain is required. *Please note: directions to the meeting location in Maple Valley will be given upon registration.*

September 13 (Saturday) 1 - 3

September 20 (Saturday) 1 - 3

NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

[MORE NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS](#)

QUIET WATER: WETLANDS OF THE WATERSHED

ADULTS \$15



Journey into the watershed with Clay Antieau, Seattle Public Utilities scientist and local authority on Northwest native plants. Highlights of the day include Eagle Ridge Meadow, a 40-acre fen; 14 Lakes, a strange “kettle” wetland; and a forested bog in the Rock Creek riparian wetland complex. Participants must be able to handle 2 - 3 miles of moderate hiking over muddy and uneven terrain.

May 10 (Saturday) 9 - 4



Young male elk, lower Cedar River Watershed

AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR ADULTS PROGRAMS

Responsible youth, ages 15 and up with an interest in nature and history, are welcome to attend adult programs. Youth must be accompanied by a participating adult.

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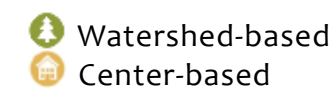
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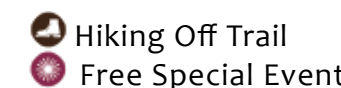
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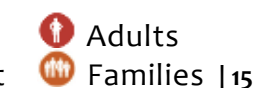
Bus Tour
Van Tour



Watershed-based
Center-based



Hiking Off Trail
Free Special Event



Adults
Families | 15



Quiet Water: Wetlands of the Watershed Program, Eagle Ridge Fen

NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS





AMONG ANCIENTS: OLD GROWTH FORESTS

ADULTS \$15
   

Enjoy a day in old growth forests with Clay Antieau, Seattle Public Utilities scientist and local authority on Northwest native plants. Hikes will include trips into some of the best low-land old growth, including the Lost Creek old growth and the ancient forests of Findley Lake. Participants must be able to handle 2 - 3 miles of moderate hiking over uneven terrain.

August 2 (Saturday) 9 - 4
August 16 (Saturday) 9 - 4



HIDDEN CONNECTIONS: RESTORING FOREST HABITAT

ADULTS \$15
   

Spend the day with Rolf Gersonde, PhD and Bill Richards, two Seattle Public Utilities scientists who work in the Watersheds. They will help you discover the hidden connections in the forests and share how we restore biodiversity and habitat in young forests of the Watershed. Explore differences in wildlife habitat and other ecosystem qualities between young and old forests in the Rex Basin.

September 6 (Saturday) 9 - 4





FOREST, FLOWS, AND FISH: HABITAT RENEWAL

ADULTS \$15
   

Join Watershed staff to explore active efforts to renew forests, restore flows, and return anadromous fish to the lower Cedar River Municipal Watershed. This 5-hour tour visits project sites that illuminate how 10 years of Habitat Conservation Plan - related projects and research are renewing the forest, restoring water flows, and returning salmon to their vital spawning grounds.

September 27 (Saturday) 9 - 2



FUNGAL TREASURES OF THE WATERSHED

ADULTS \$30
   

Learn about mushrooms with naturalist Lee Whitford, who has been teaching mycology for 20 years. The class begins with a brief overview of fungi and a slideshow about their characteristics. Then the group heads into the woods of the Watershed to collect specimens and look at habitats. Finish the day back in the classroom learning identification skills and discussing the specimens found in the field.

October 18 (Saturday) 9 - 3:30
October 19 (Sunday) 9 - 3:30



THE LIFE OF THE OWL

ADULTS \$15 (or \$25 for both)
 

Paul Bannick, award-winning photographer and author, will take you on a visual exploration of a year in the life of North American owls. Examine every species, each key habitat type, and the stages of their life through the four seasons of the year. Through this program you will better understand their mating strategies, nest selection, raising of young, the dispersal of owls, and winter survival.

November 8 (Saturday) 11 - 1





WOODPECKERS OF NORTH AMERICA

ADULTS \$15 (or \$25 for both)
 

Paul Bannick, co-author and photographer of the new book, *Woodpeckers of North America, a Naturalists Guide*, will examine each of the North American woodpecker species through award-winning images, intimate sounds, stories, and observations from the field. Paul's presentation will delight as well as help distinguish between species by behavior, habitat, and field markings.

November 8 (Saturday) 2 - 4

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SYMBOLS >

 Bus Tour
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 Free Special Event
 Adults
 Families | 17



Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Demonstration, Wondering About Wildlife Event

FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

EARTH DAY FUN

ALL AGES FREE



Spend the morning helping restore the landscape while digging in the earth at the Center. Spend the afternoon celebrating the colorful history of land use with *Logger's Tribute*, NW Timber Community Music and Folklore, a performance by Snoqualmie Valley artist Bob Antone and friends. If you plan to join us for the first part of the day, sign up at: www.cedarriver.org

April 26 (Saturday) 10 - 4:30
Volunteer Event 10 - 3
Musical Performance 3 - 4:30

MOTHER'S DAY

ALL AGES FREE



This relaxing day for multi-generational families celebrates all the mothers in our lives, as well as in the Watershed. Enjoy tea, coffee, and snacks while strolling the grounds of the Education Center and savoring the spectacular views of Rattlesnake Ledge. Discover fun tidbits about moms – both human and wild – that have raised their families in the Watershed.

May 11 (Sunday) 12 - 4

JUNIOR NATURALISTS

4-8 YEARS \$5 (Adults free)



Hey kids, bring an adult to explore nature! Be ready for walking and plan to use all your senses as we discover signs of animals. Each child will get a small journal. Directions to the meeting location near Rattlesnake Lake will be given upon registration.

June 8 (Sunday) 10:15-11:45
August 31 (Sunday) 10:15-11:45

KNEE HIGH NATURALISTS

18-36 MONTHS \$5 (Adults free)



Take a morning stroll from the Center along Rattlesnake Lake with a naturalist to discover rocks, birds, plants, and things. Paced for short legs and shorter attention spans, this program will explore shapes and colors found in nature. Up to two kids may be registered per adult.

July 10 (Thursday) 9:45 - 10:45
August 14 (Thursday) 9:45 - 10:45

CEDAR RIVER SALMON JOURNEY

ALL AGES FREE



See spawning salmon at 5 sites along the Cedar River this fall! At Landsburg, learn how some salmon are allowed to enter our drinking water. This is a rare opportunity you don't want to miss. Note: All sites are along the Cedar River in the Renton and Maple Valley area.

October Weekends 11-4

WONDERING ABOUT WILDLIFE

ALL AGES FREE



Grab your family and friends for a day of wild delight, both inside and out, at the Center. This free, hands-on event is packed with wildlife activities that will interest all ages. With so much to experience, pack a lunch and stay for the whole day.

January 2, 2015 (Friday) 10 - 3

WINTER WEEKENDS

Winter weekends at the Center are wonderful! Many free, fun, naturalist-led activities are available. Depending upon the day, options might include hiking, bird watching, or nature journaling.

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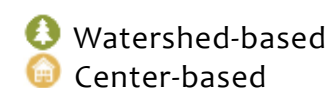
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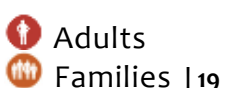
Bus Tour
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Watershed-based
Center-based



Hiking Off Trail
Free Special Event



Adults
Families | 19



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NEWSLETTER



Read stories you won't find anywhere else.

Sign-up Here:

[www.seattle.gov/util/
CedarRiverWatershedNews](http://www.seattle.gov/util/CedarRiverWatershedNews)